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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for electronically translating text, comprising providing an electronic language translator; receiving source language text as an input of the electronic language translator; translating the source language text at the electronic language translator into one or more target language texts; and providing a first user with an option of viewing one or more of the target language texts with or without the source language texts.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes at least a first translation engine.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes a translation cache.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the translation cache includes a store of phrase and equivalents across multiple languages.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the translation cache includes a store of source and one or more target language equivalencies that are dynamically updated.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the translation cache includes heuristics to enable matching between inputs and cache entries which are not typographically identical.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include ignoring differences in the capitalization scheme.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include ignoring differences in the punctuation.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include dividing the input at punctuation such as commas in order to match phrases at a sub-sentential level.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics eliminate appellatives at the beginning and end of phrases before attempting the match.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include a glossary of abbreviations, slang forms, and other non-standard forms in order to recognize all variants of the cached phrases.
12. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include ignoring diacritics.
13. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include unifying hiragana and katakana in Japanese inputs.
14. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include unifying small and large kana in Japanese inputs.
15. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the flexible matching heuristics include ignoring sentence-final expressive particles (gobi) in Japanese inputs.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes a plurality of translation engines.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the electronic language translator includes a multiple engine comparison tool that receives translated target language outputs from multiple engines and selects a desired output.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes a pre-processor that improves the translatability of the source language.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor corrects the source language inputs for improved translatability by application of language-specific heuristics.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor includes a spell-checker to correct spelling errors.
21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processing expands acronyms and abbreviations that would otherwise not translate properly.
22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor includes an accent-restoration routine to correct deleted or incorrect accent marks.
23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor replaces slang with standard language equivalents which will translate better.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor replaces conversational constructions with language equivalents that translate better.
25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the pre-processor eliminates difficult to translate sentence-final expressive particles.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the pre-processor eliminates gobi from Japanese inputs.

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27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes a tutorial to instruct users on use of the translator.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator includes a composition tool that interactively guides the user to use translation friendly language.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool includes a spell checker that provides a notification to a user when the input includes a lexical item not found in dictionaries used by the system.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool scans the input for at least one of specific words, phrases, and expressions which do not translate properly.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool checks for lexically ambiguous words which cause translation problems.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool monitors a length of the input and reminds the user that shorter inputs may translate better.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the input length monitor uses heuristics to increase the input length count for terms that increase translation complexity.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the heuristics increase the input length count for conjunctions.

35. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool scans the input for syntactic constructions which are difficult to translate.

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36. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool scans the input for syntactic constructions which are ambiguous.

37. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool warns the user about accent errors and suggests corrections.

38. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool passes the input through a language model and warns the user when the model does not recognize the input with a desired certain confidence level.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the language model is selected from a trigram model, bigram model, unigram model, or a linear combination of trigram, bigram, and unigram models.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the language model is a Hidden Markov Model.

41. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the composition tool executes a preliminary translation of the input, passes the input through a language model, and warns the user when the model does not recognize the translated output with a desired certain confidence level.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the language model is selected from a trigram model, bigram model, unigram model, or a linear combination of trigram, bigram, and unigram models.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the language model is a Hidden Markov Model.

44. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator provides the user an indicator to indicate those portion of the input that are not to be translated.

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45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the indicator includes special characters placed before and after the text not to be translated.

46. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the electronic language translator replaces text not to be translated with a lexical term that is not changed by the machine translation engine.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the lexical term is a randomly generated, very large integer.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the lexical term is a randomly generated, very large integer concatenated with a sequentially generated integer to ensure that the same lexical term is not generated twice in one translation.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the lexical term is a randomly generated alpha-numeric string.

50. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the lexical term is a randomly generated alpha-numeric string, concatenated with a sequentially generated character, to ensure that the same lexical term is not generated twice in one translation.

51. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the lexical term is a randomly generated alpha-numeric string, concatenated with a sequentially generated integer, to ensure that the same lexical term is not generated twice in one translation.

52. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator uses specialized dictionaries to maximize the quality of the translation.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the specialized dictionaries are selected from topic-specific, application-specific and user-specific dictionaries.

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54. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator retains information about the capitalization scheme of the input, and restores this scheme in the output.

55. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator retains information about the punctuation of the input, and restores this punctuation in the output.

56. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic language translator provides a mechanism for viewers of the translate output to indicate to the inputting user when the translation has not been understood.

150. (Currently Amended) A system for electronically translating text, comprising an electronic language translator that receives source language text input and produces translated target language text; and
~~and~~ an interface coupled to the electronic language translator and configured to provide a user with an option of viewing one or more target language texts with or without source language text.

151. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes at least one translation engine.

152. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a translation cache.

153. (Original) The system of claim 152, wherein the translation cache includes a store of phrases and equivalents across multiple languages.

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154. (Original) The system of claim 152, wherein the translation cache includes a store of source and one or more target language equivalents that are dynamically updated.

155. (Original) The system of claim 152, wherein the translation cache includes a processing unit for executing matching between inputs and cache entries which are not typographically identical.

156. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a routine for ignoring differences in the capitalization scheme.

157. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a routine for ignoring differences in the punctuation.

158. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a routine for dividing the input at punctuation.

159. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a routine for eliminating appellatives at the beginning and end of phrases before attempting the match.

160. The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a glossary of abbreviations, slang forms, and other non-standard forms, plus a routine for substituting standard forms for the glossary entries.

161. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a diacritic removal routine.

162. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a hiragana and katakana unification routine for Japanese inputs.

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163. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a small and large kana unification routine for Japanese inputs.

164. (Original) The system of claim 155, wherein the flexible matching unit includes a sentence-final expressive particles (gobi) elimination routine for Japanese inputs.

165. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a plurality of translation engines.

166. (Original) The system of claim 165, wherein the electronic language translator includes a multiple engine comparison tool that receives translated target language outputs from multiple engines and selects a desired output.

167. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a pre-processor that improves the translatability of the source language.

168. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes a language-specific source language input corrector for improved translatability

169. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes a spell-checker unit.

170. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes an acronyms and abbreviations expander.

171. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes an accent-restoration unit.

172. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes a slang replacement unit.

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173. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes a conversational constructions replacement routine.

174. (Original) The system of claim 167, wherein the pre-processor includes a sentence-final expressive particles elimination routine.

175. (Original) The system of claim 174, wherein the pre-processor includes a Japanese gobi elimination routine.

176. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a translator training tutorial.

177. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes an input composition tool which interactively guides the user to use translation-friendly language.

178. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a spell checker.

179. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a difficult-to-translate phrase detection routine.

180. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a lexically-ambiguous word detection routine.

181. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes an input-length monitor.

182. (Original) The system of claim 181, wherein the input length monitor includes a word demerit monitor.

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183. (Original) The system of claim 182, wherein the word demerit monitor is a conjunction demerit monitor.
184. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a difficult-to-translate syntax scanner.
185. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes an ambiguous construction scanner.
186. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes an accent corrector.
187. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a language model.
188. (Original) The system of claim 187, wherein the language model is chosen from a trigram model, bigram model, unigram model, or a linear combination of trigram, bigram, and unigram models.
189. (Original) The system of claim 187, wherein the language model is a Hidden Markov Model.
190. (Original) The system of claim 177, wherein the composition tool includes a language model for preliminary translations.
191. (Original) The system of claim 190, wherein the language model is chosen from a trigram model, bigram model, unigram model, or a linear combination of trigram, bigram, and unigram models.
192. (Original) The system of claim 190, wherein the language model is a Hidden Markov Model.

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193. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a do-not-translator indicator.

194. (Original) The system of claim 193, wherein the do not-translate indicator is a set of special characters places before and after text not to translate.

195. (Original) The system of claim 193, wherein the do-not-translate indicator includes a translation-neutral token substitution routine.

196. (Original) The system of claim 195, wherein the translation-neutral token is a randomly-generated very large integer.

197. (Original) The system of claim 195, wherein the translation-neutral token is a randomly-generated very large integer concatenated with a sequentially generated integer.

198. (Original) The system of claim 195, wherein the translation-neutral token is a randomly-generated alpha-numeric string.

199. (Original) The system of claim 195, wherein the translation-neutral token is a randomly-generated alpha-numeric string concatenated with a sequentially generated character.

200. (Original) The system of claim 195, wherein the translation-neutral token is a randomly-generated alpha-numeric string concatenated with a sequentially generated integer.

201. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes specialized dictionaries.

202. (Original) The system of claim 201, wherein the specialized dictionaries are chosen from topic-specific, application-specific, and user-specific dictionaries.

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203. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a capitalization recording and restoration unit.

204. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a punctuation recording and restoration unit.

205. (Original) The system of claim 150, wherein the electronic language translator includes a poor-translation feedback mechanism for the input user.